

## Edwards Shoulders Share of Energy Crunch

by MSgt Stefanie Doner  
*Air Force Flight Test Center Public  
Affairs*

As the California energy crisis continues, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., is stepping up efforts to conserve electricity and natural gas.

“While utility providers haven’t requested that we cut energy consumption by a specific amount yet, it’s important that we all do our part as good neighbors to conserve energy resources and keep the base’s utility costs low,” said Capt Amy Hoffer, 95th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Those efforts are paying off. In the first month of the new year, main base operations cut natural gas consumption by 12 percent over that used in the same period last year, a \$75,000 energy savings.

Additionally, Air Force Research Laboratory’s Propulsion Directorate cut



their natural gas use by 11 percent, saving the base another \$10,000.

Continuing to conserve electricity remains a hot topic on Edwards and throughout the state. The current conservation initiatives on base include shutting down lights on streets and in parking lots. To ensure safety, however, intersections remain lit. The base lowered temperatures on thermostats to 68 degrees this winter, and increased the summertime temperature to 78 degrees. Hot water heaters to restrooms and the compressed natural gas station have been shut down to conserve energy.

Base employees and housing residents have been encouraged to shut off all lights not in use, to ensure their desktop computers are completely shut down at the end of the day, and to take other measures that will save energy without significantly impacting quality of life.

Edwards officials are formulating contingency plans should the situation worsen. These include partially or totally shutting down natural gas service to the main base, which could last from a few hours to a few days.

Although flight line operations haven’t been seriously affected to date, the base is examining the possibility of shortening shift lengths and workweeks to help cut energy use should the problem escalate. To help people become more involved in the conservation effort, Edwards established an energy hotline and an e-mail account for people to report areas where energy may be wasted or to offer suggestions for improving conservation efforts.

**SSgt William McDaniel, 95th CES, maintains ceiling lighting units as part of an energy conservation push at Edwards AFB, Calif. (Photo by TSgt Chris Ball)**